GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:82
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
AID TO AFGHANISTAN
AJAY CHAKRABORTY;RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide assistance for the reconstruction of Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details and the terms and conditions thereof ;

(c) whether India participated in the recently held two-day International conference on reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Prime Minister of Afghanistan visited India recently; and

(f) if so, the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)-(f) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a)-(f) OF THE ANSWER TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 82 T ANSWERED ON 06.03.2002
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India has historical ties of friendship and cooperation with Afghan people. As part of our continuing commitment to further strengthen our relationship, government has proposed to cooperate with the Afghan government in reconstruction and rehabilitation in post conflict Afghanistan in various areas. In this context, government has announced a line of credit of US$ 100 million to be made available to the Afghan government. During the Tokyo Ministerial meeting on Reconstruction in Afghanistan, held on 21-22 January, 2002, we had also made available an amount of US$ 1.5 million for immediate utilization by the Afghan government.

During the recently concluded visit of H.E Hamid Karzai, the Chairman of the Afghan Interim Administration, Hon`ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee announced a grant of US$ 10 million for utilization by the Afghan government.
India has participated in all the international meetings and conferences, held thus far, relating to reconstruction in Afghanistan, including the Tokyo Ministerial meeting, and the latest meeting held in Berlin on 13th February, 2002 relating to training of Afghan police force.

As part of our continuing bilateral political interaction with the Afghan Interim Administration, the Chairman of the Afghan Interim Administration, H.E. Hamid Karzai paid a state visit to India on 26-27 February, 2002. During his visit, all issues of bilateral cooperation, specifically those relating to reconstruction and rehabilitation in post conflict Afghanistan were discussed. In addition to a US$ 10 million grant announced by the Prime Minister, both sides agreed to work on project assistance in the fields of Education, Health, Information Technology, Public Transport, Energy and Training. The visit of Chairman Karzai opened a new chapter in Indo-Afghan relations.